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1962/10/03

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Oct. 2

In informal MFM starting ~~Oct. 2~~ Secretary made introductory statement reviewing recent developments in Cuba and US response in setting of world-wide communist offensive. Expressed firm view that Soviet Union would not go to war over Cuba, but reassured OARS in event of a sneak nuclear attack on United States or elsewhere United States could destroy Soviet Union. Invited views of ForMins on how to make Soviet bloc supplying of Cuba more difficult and costly and how to demonstrate communist action in Cuba will not affect Hemisphere.

ForMins of Nicaragua Argentina Dominican Republic Guatemala Honduras Paraguay Colombia Panama Ecuador and Costa Rica also made statements. Generally expressed need for hemispheric solidarity to face threat. CA countries emphasized present danger to Caribbean area. [Nicaragua, Honduras and Panama spoke of possible need to create Caribbean defensive organization (see DEPCIRTEL 517). Argentina suggested action under "existing commitments". Colombia stressed adequacy of Rio Treaty as means for dealing with any situation which might arise. Costa Rica proposed MFM inter alia

Drafted by:

COAS:THortwile 10/2/62

Circulation:

Telegraphic Transmission and

Classification approved by:

ADA-RPA: Ward P. Allen

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CBC/MR

REVIEWED BY: *BB Hurd*

DATE: *10/2/62*

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[to study possibility of deterring Cuban arms build-up and coordinate surveillance.]

Secretary mentioned certain measures under consideration by USG designed reduced Soviet bloc--Cuba trade carried in free-world ships. Since these measures would affect shipping OAS and NATO countries he said US wants inform them to get their reaction.

Overall atmosphere of meeting one of cordiality and cooperation.

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